Jessie Silvius, interviewee

Evelyn Watters, interviewer May 16, 1984

TAPE INDEX

0	Jessie's early history. Born in Oak Park, CA year of 1898. Father born in Ohio, year of 1876, Mother born in Placerville, CA year of 1878. Parents strict but loving.
5:00	Descriptions of the village before annexation to Sacramento. 18 steps up to front door as precaution for floods. More early recollections.
10:00	Father's business, tanks and windmills. Mother rode in a surrey with fringe on top. Grandmother attended Mills College when it was a"Seminary for Young Ladies."
12:00	She drives a car for her father at age thirteen. Recalls frequent boat rides to SanFrancisco to accompany father on business trips. Dinner on board for 50¢. During fruit season captain brought boat to docks where children received choicest bits of fruit. More on the leisurely way of life - little stress.
15:00	Summers in Santa Cruz and later to Lake Tahoe. Evenings spent listening to Edison phonograph records, horn like a great morning glory. Movies for 5¢ Saw "Perils of Pauline." Recals recreation: parks, Merry-goround, and library where only one book a day was allowed.
16:00	High School Days. Sacramento High, the only High school in Sac'to at that time. She enrolled in the "Literary "Course." Was on the "Police Force" a group that monitored hall duties and off campus violations etc. Was Assistant Editor of Year Book. Had her own car at age 15, and drove to and from school. Made many good friends.
20:00	Berkeley years: Enjoyed more freedom although of the innocent kind. Campus life so safe - could stroll about at night with no fear. A peaceful kind of life. Recalls a few girls who spoke of Bolshevism and one dressed up as Emma Goldman. On the whole, no political activism.

22:00 Recalls McKinly Park graduation excercises from High School. Wore white embroidered dress with blue coat. Banquet at Hotel Sacramento.

23:00 Tells about husband whose father had a book binding business in Sacramento and for whom he worked. He later became a member of the Masonic Order where he received the highest recognition. The oldest son became H.B. Silvius III because the grandfather was still living. He is now an Episcopal Priest in the Boston area. The second son was named John Latouret in recognition of Jessie's father. He is now a teacher of Science & Math at Redondo Beach and was for a time a Presbyterian minister. The third son is a medical Dr. in Sunnyvale, CA, his name Don.

25:00 Jessie thought of her work as mother and wife in terms of a career. Never regrets having devoted her life to this endeavor. A busy life including connections with scouting. Shopping for groceries and meat all done by phone - usual procedure for families then. Speaks of Depression years - sons needing an education "all in it together." Connections with AAUW.
Remember first time her mother voted - it considered a privilege.

30:00 Summer vacations with children. Tahoe on the beach. Needed to pump water at the rented cabin. Cooked on a wood stove. Always had "help."

31:00 The passing of Mr. Silvius. His connections and recognitions from Masonic Order

32:00 His scouting affiliations affecting the sons

33:00 Changes after her husband died.

34:00 Jessie begins to live her own quiet life.
AAUW affiliations. Considers voting a privilege.
Social life tapers down.

35:00 Children remain close emotionally but not living nearby. Sons have divorces but the immediate family remains intact.
She stayed friendly with divorced in-laws.

37:00 Thoughts on what has sustained and maintained her through the years.
Her religious faith significant.
Speaks of how she dealt with a crisis in her early married life and how it brought them together.

40:00 She makes a distinction between lonliness and being alone.
She is never lonely and tells why.

41:00 Answers questions about reasons for her remarkable appearance at age eighty-six.

42:00 Speaks of her health and problems when she was young.
Never abuses her body.

45:00 Grateful for everything she has had and concludes with biblical quote:, "All things work together for good to those who love God."